

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TAGS: UNICEF, OCON

SUBJECT: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. SIXTEEN MEMBERS OF UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MET AT UN HEADQUARTERS MARCH 19-20 AS A WORKING GROUP ON THE REVISED RULES OF PROCEDURES OF THE BOARD AND ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE.

2. HARRY LABOUISSSE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF WELCOMED THE GROUP AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THEIR INTEREST IN THE TWO ISSUES BEFORE THEM.

3. FOCUSING ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE MR. LABOUISSSE POINTED OUT THAT THEY ARE NOT MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ITSELF BUT BY ECOSOC AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. DOCUMENT E/ICEF/L.1326 WHICH THE GROUP WAS TO REVIEW CONTAINED RELEVANT EXTRACTS FROM RESOLUTIONS OF THOSE BODIES. ALL THE MAIN STRUCTURES AND FUNCTIONS OF UNICEF WERE COVERED INCLUDING A SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR CURRENT POLICIES AND WORKING METHODS OF THE AGENCY AS DEVELOPED BY THE BOARD WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ECOSOC AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS. THE DIRECTOR EXPRESSED ACCORD WITH THE DESIRE OF SOME BOARD MEMBERS THAT THOSE KEY

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DECISIONS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY RELEVANT SHOULD BE BROUGHT

TOGETHER IN A CONVENIENT AND CONCISE FORM.

4. LABOUISSSE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT ONE OF THE IMPORTANT ASSETS OF UNICEF IS ITS FLEXIBILITY AND DYNAMISM. THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE REFLECTED IN NEW DECISIONS AND CHANGES IN EMPHASIS BY THE BOARD TO MEET NEW SITUATIONS AND NEW NEEDS. THE DOCUMENT, WHICH THE WORKING GROUP WILL FORWARD TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, IT IS TO BE USEFUL, WILL HAVE TO REFLECT THIS.

5. PARTICIPANTS ELECTED MICHAEL N. SCELSI, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO UNICEF, CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORKING GROUP. MR. SCELSI SKILLFULLY LED THE GROUP THROUGH A SARGASSO SEA OF INTERPRETATIONS RELATING TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE. UK AND FRENCH DELS EMBARKED ON AN IN-HOUSE COURSE REMINISCENT OF THE WAR OF ROSES AS THEY FOUGHT OVER VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS OF THE RULES. THE FRG, CANADA, EGYPT, INDIA AND JAPAN WERE ALSO ACTIVE WARRIORS.

6. A MAJOR ISSUE RAISED BY FRG AND FRANCE WAS THE TIMING OF THE REDRAFT OF THE UNICEF RULES OF PROCEDURE. BOTH NOTED THAT ECOSOC IS CURRENTLY REVISING ITS RULES AND BOTH EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE SAME LANGUAGE SHOULD BE USED IN ALL UN RULES THEREFORE UNICEF SHOULD AWAIT ECOSOC'S REVISION. THE UK DEL CHALLENGED THIS APPROACH SAYING THAT LANGUAGE WORKED OUT BY UNICEF BOARD MEMBERS EXPRESSED BETTER THE NEEDS OF THE AGENCY.

7. WHILE THE REVISED DOCUMENT HAD NO MAJOR CHANGES IT DID REFLECT A MORE PUNCTILIOUS PARAPHRASING OF THE SEPARATE SENTENCES EXPRESSED AND FINALLY APPROVED.

8. TERMS OF REFERENCE-THE USSR DEL MADE A STRONG STATEMENT ON THE NEED FOR A UNICEF CHARTER ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT SUCH A DOCUMENT WOULD HAVE NO LEGAL RELEVANCE FOR THE AGENCY.

9. THE WORKING GROUP AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON FINALLY AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD THAT IT REVIEW (DOC.3/ICEF/L.1326) IN TERMS OF ITS USEFULNESS AS A DIGEST, UNCLASSIFIED

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IN A HANDY FORM, OF THE MAIN TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE BOARD AS ESTABLISHED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ECOSOC; AND OF CURRENT POLICIES AND WORKING METHODS AS ESTABLISHED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE DETAILED LANGUAGE IN THE REPORT DOES NOT REPRESENT A FORMAL APPROVAL BY THE BOARD, AND THAT IN ALL CASES REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE WHERE NECESSARY TO THE ACTUAL TEXTS OF THE BOARD REPORTS.

THE WORKING GROUP WOULD ALSO REQUEST THE BOARD TO CLARIFY OR AMEND CERTAIN POLICIES AND WORKING METHODS IN THE DOCUMENT WHICH THE GROUP AGREED WERE NECESSARY.

10. THE FRENCH DEL GAVE STRONG SUPPORT TO THIS RECOMMENDATION AND REQUESTED THAT BOARD MEMBERS BE SENT COPIES OF THE DRAFT DOCUMENT FOR APPROVAL.

11. BOTH THE UK AND CANADIAN DELS EXPRESSED THEIR APPROVAL OF DOC.E/ICEF/L.1326 AS A USEFUL GUIDE FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND SUPPORTED THE CHAIRPERSON RECOMMENDATIONS. NEITHER RECOMMENDED A UNICEF CHARTER AS THE ULTIMATE GOAL, ALTHOUGH THE CANADIAN DEL SPOKE IN FAVOR OF ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR UNICEF ACTIVITIES.

12. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF USSR THE CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION WAS ACCEPTED BY THE WORKING GROUP. HOWEVER, IT WAS STIPULATED THAT A SECOND MEETING OF THE GROUP WOULD BE CALLED, PRIOR TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION, IF THERE WERE ISSUES IN THE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT ON WHICH THE GROUP DIFFERED AND FELT DISCUSSION WAS WARRANTED.

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